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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 15 Oct 52

SUBJECT Training of Civil Physicians in Biological Warfare, Chemical Warfare, and Air Force Medicine

NO OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

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REPORT NO.

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course given for civil physicians in medical protection against biological warfare, chemical warfare, Air Force medicine, and the usual field surgery. The entire course lasted about two months and included the subjects discussed below.

Biological Warfare

2. The course included lectures on bacteriology, diagnosis of infectious diseases, including typhus, cholera, plague, typhoid, group dysentery, and tularemia to which special attention was directed. Instruction was given on the prevention of infection, especially against the above diseases, which might be used in BW, and against parasitic diseases, such as are transmitted by lice. The methods taught for the prevention of the spread of epidemics were isolation of the sick, identification of the disease screening of carriers, and mass vaccination. Smallpox was the only disease against which the entire population was vaccinated. In case of an epidemic, mass vaccination for the specific disease was practiced.
3. In case of biological warfare, the medical authorities planned to send field laboratories to the affected areas with complete facilities for the identification of BW agents. I did not see any such laboratories.
4. The individual soldiers were furnished with packages containing bandages and a disinfectant. I did not know of any plans to furnish protective equipment to civilians.

Chemical Warfare

5. The CW agents to which special attention was directed during the course included chlorine, tear gases, mustard gas, phosgene, and HCN. We saw two or three

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severe cases of mustard gas skin burns on men, but were not told where the subjects came from. The action of ammonia, tear gas, hydrocyanic acid, and the delayed action of phosgene was demonstrated on dogs and cats. The identification of these toxic agents in food, water, clothing, and air was taught. We were given samples of contaminated materials and required to determine the toxic agent, as exercises. Nothing was said of nerve gases and no mention was made of radiation. We were shown impregnated clothing to protect against mustard gas but were not told what the impregnation was.

6. There were demonstrations of gas masks for soldiers, officers, civilians, children, and surgeons. The mask was shown and the construction explained. We were not allowed to touch the gas masks. The construction of the cannisters except that small gas masks were shown in some cases. The other ingredients were kept secret. One gas mask was shown, the very existence of which was supposed to be secret. We were told that it was 100% effective against any poison gas that was made. Others for special purposes were sometimes referred to and connecting hoses were rubber. The cannisters were shown.
7. The decontamination of soil, clothing, and food was carried out by spraying with a solution of calcium hypochlorite. Clothing was decontaminated by exposure to high temperatures in a decontamination chamber. Food cans and utensils of all sorts were decontaminated by boiling and boiling. For exposure to hydrocyanic acid, of the victim were treated, methylene blue was injected intravenously and artificial respiration applied.
8. Clothing and gloves supplied were made of wool. High boots supplied were made of leather.

#### Air Force Medicine

9. Most of the studies dealing with Air Force medicine were given at the Civil Aeronautic Medical Research Institute, 10, Tverskaya Street, Pimenovsky per. [small street], Moscow. The location was in the Medical Department of the Military Academy of the Air Force, Park of the Moscow. This institution had a large display of aviation medicine. The head of both institutions was Vladimir Strelzoff, who became of him.
10. The subjects covered in the course were the physiology of body changes in low pressure chambers, regulation of the brain, vision, hearing, and circulation system, the effects of low temperatures, and especially the physiology of acceleration and deceleration. The men taking the course were compelled to submit to experiments on themselves in low pressure chambers corresponding to altitudes of 50,000 feet without oxygen masks. In these tests, handwriting before and during the test was compared, and psychological tests were given dealing with attention, direction and counting.
11. There was also included work on the topic of next analysis of oxygen with special reference to impurities such as carbon monoxide and hydrocyanic acid in bulk supplies. All large cylinders of compressed oxygen were tested for these impurities before the gas was transferred to small cylinders for use by pilots. Strelzoff also showed a white tablet, 8 inches in diameter which he called "condensed oxygen". This, he stated would give off gaseous oxygen when inserted in a releasing device. No mention of composition or releasing action were given.
12. Also there were demonstrations of the manner of and various types of parachutes released from a tower. Special clothing for pilots with interwoven electrical heating controlled by a pocket regulating switch was shown. There was also shown a suit which would maintain pressure on the body by means of fluid pumped through it by an external pump.

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